UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
October 29, 2013
Rowe Conference Room, Knight Library

PRESENT
Susan Anderson, Andrew Bonamici, Ron Bramhall, Lisa Freinkel, John Gage, Dave Hubin, Jim Imamura, Loren Kajikawa, Ruth Keele, Susan Lesyk, Lori Manson, Lee Rumbarger, Josh Snodgrass, Beata Stawarska, Randy Sullivan, Glenda Utsey, Maggie Witt, and Caitlin Yamaguchi

ABSENT
Coleman Boyer, Jeffrey Bradshaw, Sue Eveland, Alisha Kinlaw, Danaan O’Donnell-Davidson, Alison Schmitke, and Tom Wheeler

GUESTS
• Leah Middlebrook, Associate Professor, Comparative Literature and Spanish

AGENDA

I. Minutes from 10/15/13

II. Computer and Information Science (CIS)/Math: Proposal to count CIS 115 (Multimedia Web Programming) toward the B.S. Math/CIS requirement
   Guests: Kathy Freeman, Director of Undergraduate Studies, CIS
           Daniel Dugger, Associate Professor, Math

III. CourseLeaf update and request for Council representative (Ruth Keele)

IV. Background and goals of the General Education system at UO
   Guest: Karen Sprague, Special Advisor for Undergraduate Education Initiatives, CAS

MINUTES

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 15, 2013
The Chair called for any corrections or emendments to the minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting. A correction was made to the attendance roster. A motion was called.

The motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting with the correction to the attendance roster.
Moved: Ron Bramhall  
Second: Susan Anderson  

The motion passed unanimously.

II. CIS PROPOSAL TO COUNT COURSE CIS 115 (MULTIMEDIA WEB PROGRAMMING) TOWARD THE B.S. MATH/CIS REQUIREMENT
The Chair introduced Kathleen Freeman, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Computer and Information Science and Daniel Dugger, Associate Professor, Mathematics Department. Kathleen presented the request to have CIS 115, Multimedia Web Programming, count towards the math requirement for a Bachelor of Science degree.

In summation, the rationale for the proposal is that CIS 115 is already offered and the prerequisite for the course is CIS 111, Introduction to Web Programming, which is a science group-satisfying course in the General Education Curriculum and may be used in partial fulfillment of the B.S. math/computing requirement. It follows that CIS 115 should also be designated as counting towards for the math/computing requirement for the B.S. degree.

The Mathematics department and the CIS department have worked closely together to align CIS 115 with the criteria of OUS guidelines for General Education and UO current practice.

Through the exercise of reaching an agreement that CIS may count toward the math requirement for a B.S., Math and CIS are seeking clarity on the process to be used for the alignment of the math/computing requirements for the B.S. There has been a fairly recent change that B.S. requirements can be satisfied with only CIS courses. Both the Mathematics Department and CIS question whether this is a desirable development. Future discussions between the two departments are anticipated for the purpose of further course alignment.

Discussion
The Council summarized the course approval process already in practice at UO:

− courses are first reviewed by their school’s Curriculum Committee; then they proceed to the UO Committee on Courses; and then they are presented to the Senate for approval through the UOCC Curriculum Report, which is presented once each term. If a course is seeking qualification as group-satisfying, it must also be reviewed by the ICGER committee.

− In this particular situation, the Council assumes that CIS 115 has been approved by CASCC and UOCC. The remaining step, to approve the course as counting toward the B.S. requirement, falls within the purview of the UGC. Since both departments, Mathematics and CIS, have concurred the course is acceptable and meets the criteria for the math/computer requirement, then the Council has no objections to the request.
Motion: It was moved to endorse CIS 115 as counting toward the math/computing requirement for the B.S. degree and for this to be forwarded to the UOCC for inclusion in their curricular report.

Moved: John Gage
2nd: Ron Bramhall

The motion passed unanimously.

III. COURSELEAF PROJECT UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
Ruth Keele reported that the CourseLeaf project, a new course management system, will be coming online with the 2014-2015 Course Catalog. The Curriculum Management component of the system is due online in Fall 2014. The UGC is being asked to send a representative to work with the design team on this component of the system during Winter Term 2014. She invited any member of the Council to volunteer.

Ruth also pointed out that new and revised curriculum processes (e.g., course approval) are now on the Academic Affairs website (http://academicaffairs.uoregon.edu/academic-programs-approval-process).

* NON AGENDA ITEM: COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP CLARIFICATION
The Chair raised an item for the agenda that was received “last minute,” after the formal agenda had been distributed. Upon an inquiry by the current President of the Senate, and after careful search and scrutiny, it was discovered that there was no written record of the Senate stating that the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies is to serve as an ex officio member of the Undergraduate Council. Anecdotal accounts of the history of the Undergraduate Council indicate that the Undergraduate Council was to be structured explicitly parallel to the Graduate Council, and the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies is designated as an ex officio member of that body. Members of the UGC felt that this omission of the VPUGS in the membership structure was a technical oversight.

Motion: The motion was made to recommend to the Committee on Committees that the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies is to serve as a non-voting ex officio member and convener of the Undergraduate Council.

Moved: Randy Sullivan
2nd: Glenda Utsey

The motion passed unanimously.
IV. BACKGROUND AND GOALS OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION SYSTEM AT THE UO

The Chair introduced Karen Sprague, Special Adviser for Undergraduate Initiatives, CAS. Karen presented the Council with a history of how General Education has evolved at UO during her tenure as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

The basic model of General Education today is based upon required courses in the areas of Writing, Math (for the B.S.), Language (for the B.A.), and Multiculturalism. In the late 1990s, the Council was already working on the purpose of General Education, but the discussion was dropped. Timeline of developments:

1997: UO was severely criticized in its accreditation report that it did not have a coherent General Education curriculum;

2000: Karen was named the first Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies when the division was initially formed by the Senate;

2002: Karen worked to define the purpose of General Education;

2003–2005:
- UO experienced “culture wars”;
- This was when FIGs became a “laboratory” for a General Education curriculum;
- The effort was made to encourage curricular coherency, cohesion, and faculty cross-talk through FIGs;
- The UGC reviewed Group-satisfying courses. Scoring rubrics were established and syllabi were examined. The results showed that most of the courses in the groups were actually very good. A surprising number of 300-level General Education courses were discovered.
- The UGC then followed up with a review of Multi-Cultural courses. Many of these were also good; a few were mis-categorized.
- The major discovery by the UGC reviews was that descriptions of the courses of the courses were not being communicated very well. A requirement for expanded course descriptions for Group-satisfying courses was set.

Now: Many faculty enjoy teaching in General Education courses. CAS is working to collect “good ideas” for General Education courses. Faculty are being encouraged to work together to develop new ideas and approaches for teaching the General Education curriculum.

Discussion:
- The Council generally discussed how FIGs are used in General Education and how they lead to articulation into majors.
- It was noted the General Education should be deliberately incorporating strong writing and math into its coursework.
– It was noted that General Education might change to a thematic approach in its structure.

– It is important to express outcomes expected in General Education (assessment: What should a student be aware of as a result of taking a particular General Education course?)

– There is also a need to incorporate an ethical element into the learning environment, as noted in the Student Conduct Code.

The next UGC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 12:00 noon in the Collaboration Room of the Knight Library, Rm 122.